

Applicant : Christopher H. Claudatos et al.
Serial No. : 10/769,548
Filed : January 30, 2004
Page : 3 of 6

Attorney's Docket No.: 14160-011001

REMARKS

No claims have been added, amended, or canceled. Reexamination and reconsideration of the action are requested in light of the following remarks.

I. Title of the Invention

The title of the invention stands rejected as not being descriptive. Applicants have amended the title in order to overcome this rejection.

II. Claims rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102

Claims 1-4 and 6-15 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by Mason (U.S. Patent Publication No. 2003/0154314 A1).

To anticipate a claim, every element of the claim must be disclosed within a single reference. Applicants respectfully submit that the Examiner has failed to set forth *prima facie* cases of anticipation in view of the cited art.

Claim 1 recites in part, a network-attached storage appliance to generate data packets and transmit the generated data packets to the computer network. The data packets are generated by packetizing a file, the file having one or more associated file attributes. The network-attached storage appliance inserts a network-attached storage content descriptor in each generated data packet. The content descriptor identifies one or more of the associated file attributes. A multiport network device receives the generated data packets. The multiport network device is configured to process the received data packets according to the content descriptor. The multiport network device processes the received data packets at wire speed.

Mason discloses a system for redirecting local hard drive requests to a Network Attached Storage (NAS) subsystem. *See* Mason, *Abstract*. Mason discloses that when a file is created on the NAS 15 "a header is added containing meta data describing the contents of the file to follow and its relationship to a local disk and the hardware apparatus." Mason, Fig. 6 and ¶0054. Assuming for argument's sake that the header in Mason is a content descriptor (which it is not), Mason does not disclose that the NAS 15 inserts the header in each generated data packet. And

Applicant : Christopher H. Claudatos et al.
Serial No. : 10/769,548
Filed : January 30, 2004
Page : 4 of 6

Attorney's Docket No.: 14160-011001

even if header information was generated in each packet (which it is not), Mason does not disclose processing the header information (emphasis added):

A read request arrives at the storage management platform on the host I/O bus (7) and is processed by target Interface logic (10) under the direction of the embedded CPU (11). If the I/O request is a read request for data residing on the disk storage unit (3), then a cache lookup is performed to see if the data resides in the cache memory region in SDRAM (13). If the data is not found in cache (a miss), then the CPU builds and sends the read request to the Ethernet logic (16) for transmission over the external Ethernet interface (9) to the external NAS subsystem (15). Some time later, the CPU is notified that the transfer of data from the NAS subsystem to the cache memory region in SDRAM (13) is complete, and the CPU then directs the target interface logic (10) to transfer the read data from the cache memory region in SDRAM over the host I/O bus (7) finishing the I/O request.

Mason, Fig. 4 and ¶0052. In contrast, the host computer 4 in Mason transfers data received from a NAS 15 to an I/O bus 7 without processing header information.

Accordingly, the Applicants respectfully submit that claim 1 is in condition for allowance.

Claims 2-4 and 6-15 incorporate elements similar to those of claim 1 and are allowable for at least the same reason.

III. Claims rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a)

Claim 5 stands rejected under 36 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Mason in view of Malkin (U.S. Patent No. 6,243,380).

Claim 5 recites in part, a mapping table stored on the multiport network device, the mapping table identifying one or more file attributes. The mapping table provides the content descriptor to be inserted by the network-attached storage appliance for each of the identified file attributes. The mapping table is transmitted to the network-attached storage appliance. The network-attached storage appliance inserting the content descriptors provided by the mapping table.

Applicant : Christopher H. Claudatos et al.
Serial No. : 10/769,548
Filed : January 30, 2004
Page : 5 of 6

Attorney's Docket No.: 14160-011001

As a preliminary matter, the cited portions of Malkin do not remedy the deficiencies in Mason.

Secondly, the cited portions of Malkin do not disclose that the mapping table identifies one or more file attributes, as required by Claim 5. Instead, the mapping table in Malkin stores a NAS interface port number for each packet received on a per channel basis. *See* Malkin, col. 3, lines 7-13. A port number is not a file attribute, it simply identifies a NAS port through which a packet was received. It follows that the mapping table in Malkin does not provide a content descriptor for a network-attached storage appliance to insert.

Accordingly, the Applicants respectfully submit that claim 5 is in condition for allowance.

Applicant : Christopher H. Claudatos et al.
Serial No. : 10/769,548
Filed : January 30, 2004
Page : 6 of 6

Attorney's Docket No.: 14160-011001

IV. Conclusion

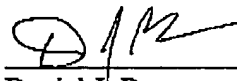
By responding in the foregoing remarks only to particular positions taken by the Examiner, the Applicants do not acquiesce with other positions that have not been explicitly addressed. In addition, the Applicants' arguments for the patentability of a claim should not be understood as implying that no other reasons for the patentability of that claim exist.

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Respectfully submitted,

Date: _____

1/3/2006



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